

REMARKS

This is a preliminary amendment. Claims 1- 49 are pending. Prior to examination on the merits, please cancel claims 14-21, and 25-47 without prejudice or disclaimer. Following entry of this amendment, claims 1-13, 22-24, and 48-49 will be pending.

With respect to all cancelled claims, Applicants have not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover have not acquiesced to any rejections and/or objections made by the Patent Office. Applicants reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded claim embodiments in future continuation and/or divisional application.

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 492692000102. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: 11/14/03

Respectfully submitted,

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